



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

SEP 12 2013

OFFICE OF
ENFORCEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

Mr. John Bullard
Regional Administrator
Northeast Region
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Dear Mr. Bullard:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Amendment 14 to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish (MSB) Fishery Management Plan (FMP) (CEQ No. 20130237).

The purposes of Amendment 14 are to: 1) improve monitoring and observing of incidental River Herrings and Shads (RH/S) catch; 2) consider ways to reduce RH/S catch; and 3) consider adding RH/S as managed stocks in the MSB FMP (i.e., as stocks in the fishery) so as to improve overall RH/S conservation.

EPA rated the Draft EIS "LO – Lack of Objections" and based on our review of the Final EIS, we continue to have no objections.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you have any questions please contact Jessica Aresta-DaSilva at aresta-dasilva.jessica@epa.gov or 202-564-1567.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Susan E. Bromm", is written over a horizontal line.

Susan E. Bromm
Director
Office of Federal Activities